WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of managing resources, said method comprising:
receiving one or more buffer variables and one or more endogenous variables;
determining one or more exogenous variables; and
simulating one or more resource requirements using the buffer variables, the endogenous variables, and the exogenous variables.

2. The method as described in claim 1 wherein the buffer variable is selected from the group consisting of a buffer size, a buffer zone, and a virtual buffer.

3. The method as described in claim 1 further comprising:
selecting a simulation mode; and
receiving a resource plan input based on the selected simulation mode.

4. The method as described in claim 3 wherein the simulation mode is selected from the group consisting of a research mode, a learning mode, and a decision-support mode.

5. The method as described in claim 1 wherein at least one of the endogenous variables is selected from the group consisting of a capacity increase decision, a capacity decrease decision, and a resource supply source.

6. The method as described in claim 1 wherein at least one of the exogenous variables is determined by calculating a resource supply.

7. The method as described in claim 1 further comprising:
generating a resource usage report that includes the resource requirements in response to the simulation.

8. The method as described in claim 1 wherein the simulating includes performing discrete event systems simulation.

9. The method as described in claim 1 further comprising:
selecting a replenishment mode, the replenishment mode including a pure replenishment mode and a forecast replenishment mode; and
including the selected replenishment mode as an input to the simulating.

10. An information handling system comprising:
one or more processors;
a memory accessible by the processors;
one or more nonvolatile storage devices accessible by the processors;
a resource management tool, the resource management tool including:
means for receiving one or more buffer variables and one or more endogenous variables;
means for determining one or more exogenous variables; and
means for simulating one or more resource requirements using the buffer variables, the endogenous variables, and the exogenous variables.

11. The information handling system as described in claim 10 wherein the buffer variable is selected from the group consisting of a buffer size, a buffer zone, and a virtual buffer.

12. The information handling system as described in claim 10 further comprising:
means for selecting a simulation mode; and
means for receiving a resource plan input based on the selected simulation mode.

13. The information handling system as described in claim 12 wherein the simulation mode is selected from the group consisting of a research mode, a learning mode, and a decision-support mode.

14. The information handling system as described in claim 10 wherein at least one of the endogenous variables is selected from the group consisting of a capacity increase decision, a capacity decrease decision, and a resource supply source.

15. The information handling system as described in claim 10 wherein at least one of the exogenous variables is determined by calculating a resource supply.

16. The information handling system as described in claim 10 further comprising:
means for generating a resource usage report that includes the resource requirements in response to the simulation.

17. The information handling system as described in claim 10 wherein the simulating includes performing discrete event systems simulation.

18. The information handling system as described in claim 10 further comprising:
means for selecting a replenishment mode, the replenishment mode including a pure replenishment mode and a forecast replenishment mode; and
means for including the selected replenishment mode as an input to the simulating.

19. A computer program product stored in a computer operable media for managing resources, said computer program product comprising:
means for receiving one or more buffer variables and one or more endogenous variables;
means for determining one or more exogenous variables; and
means for simulating one or more resource requirements using the buffer variables, the endogenous variables, and the exogenous variables.

20. The information handling system as described in claim 19 wherein the buffer variable is selected from the group consisting of a buffer size, a buffer zone, and a virtual buffer.

21. The information handling system as described in claim 19 further comprising:
means for selecting a simulation mode; and
means for receiving a resource plan input based on the selected simulation mode.

22. The information handling system as described in claim 21 wherein the simulation mode is selected from the group consisting of a research mode, a learning mode, and a decision-support mode.

23. The information handling system as described in claim 19 wherein at least one of the endogenous variables is selected from the group consisting of a capacity increase decision, a capacity decrease decision, and a resource supply source.

24. The information handling system as described in claim 19 wherein at least one of the exogenous variables is determined by calculating a resource supply.

25. The information handling system as described in claim 19 further comprising:
means for generating a resource usage report that includes the resource requirements in response to the simulation.

26. The information handling system as described in claim 19 wherein the simulating includes performing discrete event systems simulation.

27. The information handling system as described in claim 19 further comprising:
means for selecting a replenishment mode, the replenishment mode including a pure replenishment mode and a forecast replenishment mode; and
means for including the selected replenishment mode as an input to the simulating.